HOW CHEESY IS THIS? A HEALTHY FONDUE BRIMMING WITH AWESOME SAUCE {page 34}

BABY? JUSTIN BIEBER MAY STILL BE FACING MORE BABY WOES {page 28}

TALK OF THE GOWN

A BATTLE ROYAL FOR THE YEAR'S MOST STYLIN' BRIDE {page 30}

CALGARY metro®

Thursday, December 22, 2011
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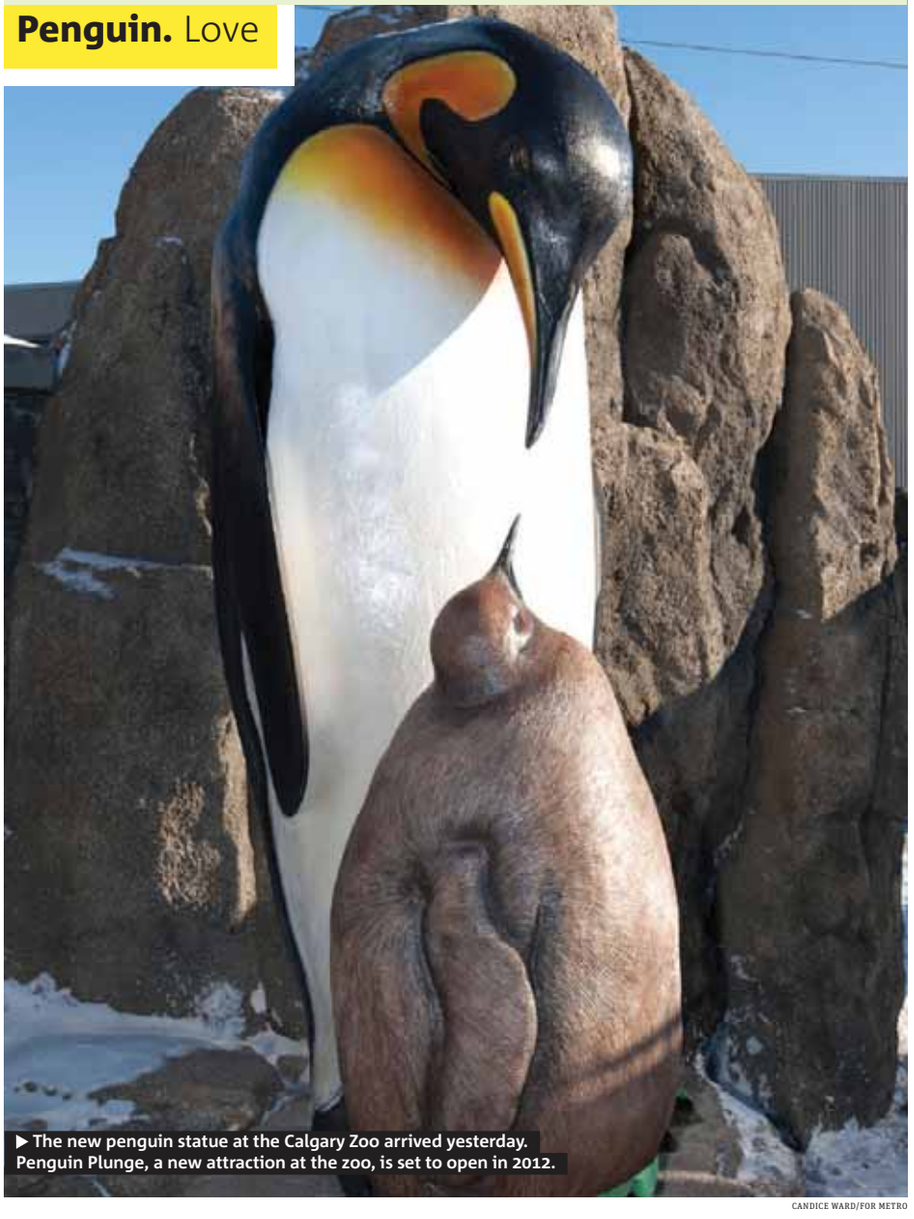
News worth sharing.

Penguin. Love



▶ The new penguin statue at the Calgary Zoo arrived yesterday. Penguin Plunge, a new attraction at the zoo, is set to open in 2012.

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Calgary Zoo set to open new attraction

Homicide rate could be lowest in years

With only a few days remaining in 2011, Calgary has seen 11 murders so far

Everything from early-crime intervention to provincial funding and skilled emergency responders is helping steer Calgary to its lowest homicide rate in years, according to local analysts.

With the announcement of the city's 11th homicide in 2011 on Tuesday, the rate per 100,000 residents stands at roughly 1.0, if the city's census data from April is adjusted to account for growth.

That mark is far lower than Edmonton's rate this year of roughly 5.6 per 100,000 residents ,and rivals Calgary's statistics from 2003 for the lowest local homicide rate of the decade.

"We are really seeing a downward trend here," acknowledged Staff Sgt. Doug Andrus with the Calgary police homicide unit. "It gives us a chance to focus on some previous files we haven't cleared."

Mount Royal University criminologist John Winterdyk said the province's $60-million Safe Communities Innovation Fund, which was established in 2008 and has spurred the creation of nearly 90 crime-prevention projects in Alberta, as well as improved socio-economic conditions, have likely been key contributors in reducing criminal deaths.

"We also have an aging population that are less likely to commit violent crimes," he added.

JEREMY NOLAIS

Unsolved cases

- Calgary police have cleared seven of the city's 11 homicide files this year and continue to actively pursue leads on unsolved cases in 2011 and years prior. The unit as a whole has been involved with nearly 100 new files this year.
- For those curious, the city tallied just one homicide in 1909, the first year on record. In contrast, the highest count was reached in 1978, when police investigated 37 homicides.

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Homicide victim identified

Calgary's 11th homicide victim of the year has been identified and police continue to search for a man in relation to the crime.

Genaro Ccopa-Huaman, 38, of Calgary has been named as the victim following an autopsy Tuesday.

Police were called to an apartment on the 300 block of 57 Avenue Southwest on Dec. 18 and found the body of a man.

They have since issued a Canada-wide warrant for the arrest of Lloyd Douglas Bramley, 27, of Calgary who has been charged with second-degree murder. Those with information about Bramley's whereabouts should call 403-266-1234. METRO

Downtown to add new skyscraper

Construction of a 40-storey downtown tower will begin in the New Year, according to reports.

Phase 2 of Eighth Avenue Place, already home to a 49-storey tower, will be built between 8th and 9th Avenue and 4th and 5th Street Southwest.

The new 850,000-square-foot tower is expected to be ready for occupancy in 2014, and the building is already more than a quarter leased.

The first tower was completed earlier this year. METRO

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The casket for murder victim Tabitha Stepple leaves the Evangelical Free Church after funeral services for her in Lethbridge on Wednesday. Her dog Mya leads the casket and mourners.

Mourners pack church for shooting victim's funeral

More than 850 people, many weeping, bid farewell to Tabitha Stepple

A young woman gunned down by her jealous ex-boyfriend on the side of a dark southern Alberta highway was remembered Wednesday as a vibrant and fearless role model.

Tabitha Stepple, 21, was one of four young people shot last week by Derek Jensen, just north of the town of Claresholm, before he killed himself. One woman survived.

More than 850 mourners at Stepple's funeral in Lethbridge watched as Stepple's simple white casket, covered in flowers, was wheeled into the church. Her pet terrier, Mya, was an honorary pallbearer.

"Tabitha was incredibly full of life. She carried herself well," said her sister, Teresa Kleinfeld, her brothers Nelson and Trevor Stepple, standing beside her. "She stood up for herself and for what she knew to be right and what she believed in.

"She was many things to many different people."

Younger brother, Nelson, remembered a big sister who always watched over him from the day he was born.

A book of remembrance included photos of Stepple from the time she was a baby to just before her death. She seemed to be smiling in all of them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Other victims

- Tanner Craswell, 22, and his 20-year-old friend Mitch MacLean were also victims.
- Shayna Conway remains in hospital as the lone survivor of the shooting.
- A baseball-themed memorial was held Monday in Charlottetown in honour of Craswell and MacLean.

1 news

Tech-savvy Canadian kids fuel a pre-Christmas spike in 'Is Santa Real?' Google searches. Scan code for story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

Thousands of North Koreans mourn Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang while defectors send leaflets via balloon. Slide shows at metronews.ca/inpictures

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Meters may get charitable 2nd life

- 10 to 20 parking meters would be installed downtown
- Artists may be commissioned to paint the old meters

KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

This could be the only time plugging change into a parking meter puts a smile on your face.

In an effort to repurpose dozens of old parking meters, the Calgary Parking Authority is hoping to position several in the downtown core for pedestrians to donate spare change.

"Part of it was just thinking about the inventory we have of parking meters and what are ways we can make use of that," said CPA manager Troy McLeod.

McLeod said after learning the city of Denver generated around $60,000 annually with a similar program, he approached the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

President and CEO Tim Richter said his organization was very receptive to the idea of being the designated charity.

"I think it's a great opportunity and nice to see the (Calgary) Parking Authority stepping in to something like that," he said.

Caralyn Macdonald of the Calgary Downtown Association said it's one more way for Calgarians to give back.

"We are going to re-engage in the New Year to get more details," she said.

McLeod said they are currently working to determine where the old meters would be placed but said it could be a matter of weeks before they're installed.

ParkPlus donation

- **The Calgary Parking Authority** is also exploring setting up a function on the current ParkPlus machines that would allow people to donate.
- **The CPA** would be using their regular payment collection for the donations.
- **An account would** be set up specifically for the Calgary Homeless Foundation
- **McLeod said 100 per cent** of the proceeds would go to the foundation.

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

▶ Troy McLeod from the Calgary Parking Authority with the two different parking meters that may be used to collect donations for the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

Studio plan stokes Kensington parking fears

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

Some Kensington business owners fear a proposed fitness studio will push an already tight parking situation in the area over the brink, but the facility's applicant says he hasn't broken any rules.

Kael Smith formally submitted a proposal to convert a facility along 14th Street Northwest near Fourth Avenue into a centre dubbed Urban Athlete Fitness Studio last month.

Within that proposal, he asked for a parking relaxation that would require him to only offer 15 stalls, roughly 20 less than the typical requirement.

"We are not trying to circumvent normal protocol.... Before that site was built, it was already parking-deficient, so the neighbourhood ... voted to give the original owners a building permit to build with a parking relaxation," Smith said Wednesday.

But Lisa Harrigan of Kensington Fitness Studio, which would likely compete with Smith for customers, says concessions being considered for the new facility threaten the overall feel of the community.

"Other big-box businesses here had to provide their own parking," she said.

Smith maintained that his centre will be run completely independent and is far smaller than comparable facilities in nearby communities.

"They are just scared of the competition," he added.

But Omar Gotmy, co-owner at the Regal Beagle pub, is concerned that studio visitors would use his 40-stall lot located nearby.

"People already park here and walk all over the place," he said. "I guard my parking lot like a dog."

KATIE TURNER/METRO

▶ Lisa Harrigan is seen inside Kensington Fitness Studio, which she helps run with her parents.

Facility conversion

- Mark Sasges, a chief development planner with the city, said a proposed facility conversion at the site where Urban Athlete Fitness Studio would be established is still being considered. A decision will likely be made within two weeks.

'Vaulter Bandit' reward doubled

He's eluded police across Canada for nearly two years, but a national banking association hopes upping the cash reward will lead to arrest the so-called "Vaulter Bandit."

The culprit, whose name is derived from his method of leaping over bank counters and stealing money from cash drawers, is linked to 17 robberies — including four in Calgary — since February 2010.

"There's no way we can rule out that he's from Calgary," said William Crate, security director for the Canadian Bankers Association, which announced Wednesday that it's doubling the reward for information leading to an arrest.

"All it takes is one person who knows who this guy is."

METRO

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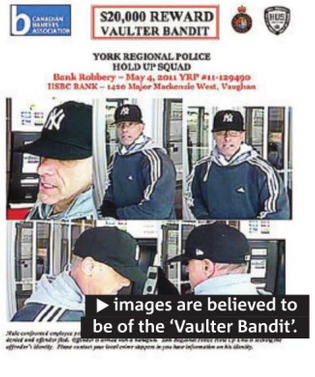
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▶ images are believed to be of the 'Vaulter Bandit'.

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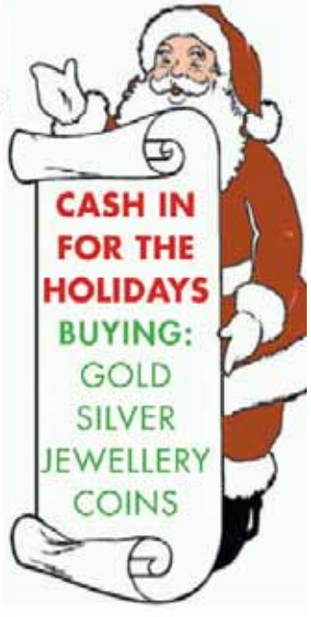

*This amount depends upon rarity, condition and what collectors are willing to pay

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

▶ Jessica Sadlo will officially unlock the door to a new home early in the new year after sticking it out for months with a branch of the Occupy Calgary movement.

Christmas comes early for occupiers

Housing placements found for homeless individuals

JEREMY NOLAIS
@METRONEWS.CA

It will be a new year filled with new beginnings for members of Calgary's original Occupy camp.

Housing placements have now been found for 15 homeless members of the movement, many of whom settled on St. Patrick's Island for weeks starting in early October, and eventually moved into the residence rented by camp founder Paul Hughes.

For occupier Jessica Sadlo, unlocking the door to a new home will prove to be a pivotal step in reuniting her with her 21-month-old son.

27 Occupy Calgary supporters spent 27 days camped on St. Patrick's Island earlier this year, but many of the homeless members admitted to previously camping illegally in the area.

"Getting him back is essential," said Sadlo, who has lived on the streets off and on for five years. "Everyone has been so great with helping me get my life back on track."

Justin Mitchell, the last of the Occupy members awaiting a placement, got a formal confirmation call Wednesday morning and cheerfully bounded out of town to spend the holidays with family.

"I am absolutely shocked and amazed," he said.

Ironically, Hughes' persistent efforts to not only shelter his homeless peers but also get them into assistance programs may cost him his own residence.

Landlord Peter Thai has previously said he plans to evict the outspoken activist regardless of how quickly the homeless were moved off his property.

But Ald. Gian-Carlo Carra visited the residence Wednesday and said he found few issues.

"The house is spotless, everyone was taking care of it," he said. "I think it's a really good, happy ending to a Calgary Occupy story."

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City making West LRT area bike-friendly

DANI FINCH
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

New bike routes along the West LRT line will make biking in the area safer and easier for Calgary cyclists, according to a Calgary cycling advocate.

"I think it's great, and it shows a level of commitment from the city to make the West LRT more accessible to the city," said Sean Carter, owner of BikeBike Calgary.

Blanka Bracic of the city's transportation department said the website showcasing the plans for the route improvements went live a couple of weeks ago, and so far, it has received positive feedback.

In planning for Phase 1 of the project, the City of Calgary put together a stakeholder group of area community associations and Calgary cycling groups.

"We designed as much as we could around feedback from these groups," said Bracic.

The effort to gather feedback was appreciated, said Carter.

"They took suggestions from us to create family-friendly routes along the line, which gives people the ability to ride with their kids to and from the train," said Carter, who was a part of the stakeholder group.

First phase

- The City of Calgary will start implementing Phase 1 of the bicycle route improvements in 2012.
- Planning for Phase 2 is set to begin in the new year.
- Public feedback can be made through the city's 311 line
- Carter says a big highlight of the route improvements will be the new pathway stretching from Westbrook Mall to 69 Street.
- The stakeholder group met twice in 2011, to provide comments and concerns about cycling in the area, and to provide feedback on the plans for the new route.

"It's exactly what they need to make the West LRT attractive to people in the neighbourhood."
SEAN CARTER, OWNER OF BIKEBIKE CALGARY

Police seek suspect in sexual-assault case

Police are looking for a man allegedly responsible for sexually assaulting a woman near the Fish Creek-Lacombe LRT station.

Around 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 18, police say a woman walking through the parking lot of the LRT station was approached by a man who pushed her down and grabbed her buttocks.

She screamed for help and the suspect allegedly ran from the area towards James McKevitt Drive Southwest.

The suspect is described as being 20 to 25 years old, Caucasian, five-foot-ten and 200 to 250 pounds.

Police say he was wearing a black-and-green-striped jacket, dark jeans and running shoes.

He also has two piercings on the left side of his upper lip — one is a stud and the other a ring.

Anyone with information is asked to call 403-266-1234. METRO

Call-in info

- Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to call 403-266-1234.

Police probe suspected shooting

Police are looking into a suspected shooting after a man was dropped off at the Alberta Children's Hospital on Tuesday evening.

The man reportedly entered the emergency room covered in blood.

He was later released with minor injuries. METRO

Santa Claus to hop on transit

More than 4,000 Calgarians will receive a visit from Santa and his elves this Christmas Eve on more than a dozen Calgary Transit buses transformed to reindeer sleighs filled with gifts.

Those looking to donate can drop off unwrapped gifts at 5490–76 Ave S.E. METRO

Holipalooza raises funds for holidays

Five charities will receive a holiday funding boost after a group of Calgarians raised more than $10,000 during an event dubbed Holipalooza.

Proceeds will be split between the Mustard Seed, Brown Bagging It, The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank. METRO

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Friendship aids cancer recovery

Friends met during hospital stay this year Judy Anderson held a shower for Karen Steele before the latter moved into her new apartment

KATIE TURNER
@METRONEWS.CA

After three months in the hospital, Karen Steele said she was just happy to have an apartment to go to, never mind a beautifully decorated one.

For four years, on and off, Steele had lived at the Calgary Rehab and Drop-In Centre. In January, she was diagnosed with Stage 4 oral cancer, which resulted in the removal of her tongue and weeks of chemotherapy and radiation.

Shortly after surgery, Steele shared a room with Judy Anderson, a stranger at first, who quickly became a friend.

Anderson, who was having her parathyroid out, said she was drawn to Steele and immediately felt she wanted to give her new friend a helping hand.

"I guess I believe there's always a reason when someone is put in our path and I also believe that then we're supposed to do something with it."

After being released from hospital, Steele was homeless again for a short time before moving in to the Sundial apartments — owned by the drop-in centre — in July.

"Honestly, without being able to get this place, I don't want to think what would have happened," said Steele, who weighed 84 pounds at the time.

Anderson, the owner of Decca Designs, collected donations from friends and colleagues to furnish and decorate Steele's new place.

"It was all a surprise what she did for me," Steele said. "My bedroom is just phenomenal."

From a fancy shower curtain to kitchen gadgets and, most recently, Christmas decorations, Steele said Anderson never comes empty-handed when she visits.

"She's an absolutely amazing woman."

Road to health

- **After surgery to remove** her tongue, Steele said her diet consisted of pureed food.
- **Anderson brought her a** Magic Bullet and made food for Steele to store in her freezer.
- **Thanks to the nourishing** food, Steele said she weighed in at 106 pounds at her last doctor's appointment.
- **Unlike most, she was** ecstatic over the weight gain.

KATIE TURNER/METRO

▶ Judy Anderson, left, decorated her friend Karen Steele's apartment as a surprise, keeping in mind her favourite colour — pink.

News in brief

▶ Jean-Michel Moquin

Man wanted on warrants

CRIME. Police are seeking public help in locating Jean-Michel Charles Moquin. Moquin, 31, is wanted by the southern Alberta integrated fugitive apprehension unit on several province-wide warrants out of Calgary. He is described as Caucasian, six-foot-one and 165 pounds with brown eyes and hair. He is believed to be in the Calgary area. Anyone with information is asked not to approach him but to call police at 403-266-1234.

DANI FINCH

Cardiac device a first: AHS

REMOTE MONITOR. A Calgary program is the first in Canada to equip more than 1,000 cardiac patients with a remote monitoring system for their heart-rhythm devices, Alberta Health Services says. The Medtronic Carelink system will reduce patient visits to Foothills Medical Centre to once a year instead of once every three months. DANI FINCH

No injuries in Dover fire

INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY. Officials say the small fire started in the kitchen of a duplex at about 9 p.m. on Tuesday and spread to the common wall of the residence. Firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze. DANI FINCH

Driver killed in Deerfoot crash

SINGLE VEHICLE. A 41-year-old man died in a single-vehicle crash on Deerfoot Trail and Airport Trail on Wednesday. The crash, which took place at about 4:15 p.m., shut down traffic for more than two hours. Police are investigating. METRO

Kids' jewelry recalled

LEAD AND CADMIUM. Health Canada is recalling a range of children's pendants, charms and beads after tests showed they contain excessive levels of lead and cadmium, which are known to be especially toxic for children.

The products are distributed by Frabels Inc. of Montreal. Almost 1,100 units have been sold in Quebec and Alberta since last December. The following products are being recalled: star charms with various stones, model numbers MP5603/217, MP5603/223 and MP5603/225; sand-dollar pendant, MP7501; smiling sun bead, brass antique/silver, MB2522; giraffe pendants, antique silver, MP949; butterfly pendant, MP1268.

Consumers should contact Frabels for instructions on returning the product for a credit by calling 514-842-8561, ext. 17. THE CANADIAN PRESS

KATIE TURNER/METRO

▶ Fourteen-year-old Sullivan Maloney knows that his grandfather's musical instrument would be a meaningful gift.

Teenager strikes the right chord

Donates grandfather's guitar to WishList program

DANI FINCH
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

100
More than 100 people still need their Christmas wishes fulfilled at the Drop-In Centre.

Though he cut out of school early, trekked downtown via bus and train, 14-year-old Sullivan Maloney did it all to make sure a fellow music lover got his Christmas wish.

The Grade 9 student from Bishop Kidd School donated his deceased grandfather's guitar to the Christmas WishList program at the Calgary Drop-In Centre.

Maloney heard about the WishList from his mom, who showed him the website.

"I found someone who I could give something to that would be meaningful," he said.

The age of the gift-giver didn't go unnoticed by Drop-In staff. "It really shows that there's no age to philanthropy," said Sophie Charko, one of the DI WishList coordinators.

"It's great that a young kid can comprehend there's a need."

Maloney found a DI client on the website who was asking for a guitar, and knew his grandfather's guitar would be a meaningful gift.

"It was what he asked for, and I knew he would put it to good use — better than I had," said Maloney.

To view the Drop-In Centre's WishList, visit wishlist.thedi.ca

RELOCATION

Town all ears for rabbit deal

An Alberta Rocky Mountain town that is overrun with rabbits has accepted an offer to relocate the animals.

Canmore says it is finalizing an agreement with Earthanimal Humane Education and Rescue Society to provide a sanctuary for its feral rabbits, which it had previously planned to trap and kill.

Mayor Ron Casey says in a news release that the town wanted to make sure the transfer of the rabbits was done responsibly.

The society, which goes by the acronym EARS, is a volunteer-operated, registered charity that manages sanctuaries for abandoned farm animals and European domestic rabbits.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hunt on after foiled abduction

RCMP in Spruce Grove, Alta., are searching for a man after an attempted abduction. On Dec. 16, a 15-year-old girl was approached while walking home from school and asked by a man to come with him.

She stated she had a cellphone and would run to a convenience store nearby. The suspect then fled the scene. METRO

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Tory MP speaks out for rights of unborn

He deplores 'subhuman' state

A Conservative MP says Parliament should consider extending human rights to unborn children.

Stephen Woodworth's view is seen as an attempt to reopen the debate around abortion laws.

"Canadian law provides no human rights protection whatsoever for children before the moment of complete birth," Woodworth said Wednesday.

"This means that in Canada a child is legally considered to be subhuman while his or her little toe remains in the birth canal, even if he or she is breathing."

The MP from Kitchener, Ont., doesn't explicitly mention the word abortion, but he gently suggests it is time to "examine" the question of granting human rights protections to unborn children.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PM's blockade

- Woodworth's views face a bleak future in Parliament.
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper vowed in the last election to stamp out any debate and defeat any private member's bills that might arise from members of his caucus on abortion.

Homecoming. Love sails in

▶ It's great to be home: Petty Officer 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta, left, kisses her girlfriend of two years, Petty Officer 3rd Class Citlalic Snell, on Wednesday. Gaeta's ship returned from 80 days at sea.

BRIAN J. CLARK/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS;

80-day voyage ends with a kiss

It is a time-honoured tradition at U.S. navy homecomings — one lucky sailor is chosen to be first off the ship for the long-awaited kiss with a loved one. Wednesday in Virginia Beach, Va., for what is believed to be the first time, the happily reunited couple was gay.

Topless activists accuse 'butchers' of abuse

They say they were made to undress in the woods in freezing temperatures, punched in the head and back, threatened with death and rape and smeared with paint.

A group of women from a Ukrainian topless-protest group Wednesday recounted their ordeal at the hands of security officials in neighbouring Belarus.

Oksana Shechko said she and two fellow activists were first interrogated on a bus for 12 hours. Then the indignities began.

"It was a real fight for survival," Shechko said after returning to Kyiv.

"We ended up in the hands of the butchers who kill and terrify the Belarusian people."

Shechko, 24, said the activists were made to sit still on the bus for several hours, prevented from speaking or moving.

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Activists Aleksandra Nemchinova, from left, Inna Shevchenko and Oksana Shechko tell their story in Kyiv Wednesday.

"If we moved our heads or hands, they beat us," Shechko said.

They were left half-naked in a forest, where they eventually found help from area residents.

Shechko claimed they were punished for a protest in Minsk in which they bared their breasts to bring attention to President Aleksander Lukashenko's crackdown on the opposition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brutal rule

- Lukashenko has repressed opposition and media since becoming leader of Belarus, a former Soviet republic, in 1994.
- In December 2010 elections, he was declared winner, but protesters denounced alleged vote fraud.
- Police arrested around 700 people, some of whom remain in jail.

Prize car in a crash

A U.S. man who won a $380,000 Lamborghini in a contest crashed the sports car six hours after he got it.

The lime green Murcielago Roadster was on its way to a Las Vegas body shop Wednesday for repairs.

David Dopp said he was taking friends and family on rides when the vehicle hit ice or loose gravel and started spinning. No one was injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prince's new challenge

Britain's Prince Harry, 27, says he'll be deployed to Afghanistan for a second time, a British news report said Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Prince Harry

A washroom voyeur

Hamilton police say a 19-year-old man faces voyeurism charges after a cellphone camera was discovered in the ceiling of a women's washroom.

Police say the phone, in video record mode, was placed in the ceiling tiles above a toilet stall.

Three women entered the stall before the phone was discovered.

The man was held for a bail hearing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police tear down Occupy Winnipeg camp

- Protesters had occupied Memorial Park since Oct. 15
- Throughout winter, camp of 30 dwindled to three

SEAN LEDWICH
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN WINNIPEG

About 30 natural-resource officers and city police officers swooped into the Occupy Winnipeg encampment at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. Wednesday to enforce a provincial removal order issued last week.

Police briefly detained three occupiers at the camp while NROs dismantled and loaded a yurt (a small tent-like structure), two tents and all contents onto a trailer. Occupiers were told they could claim their belongings after they were catalogued.

"They sent 30 guys to take care of three peaceful protesters," said Kristaps Balodis, who had been sleeping in the yurt.

"This isn't the end.... This isn't the last you'll see of the camp. That I can say for sure."

Of the three evicted occupiers, Terry Weaymouth was the only one to get a written notice of eviction.

"Occupy Winnipeg is pretty much done, in my opinion, unless we take immediate action to set up somewhere else," Weaymouth told Metro Winnipeg as he surveyed the empty park.

"Personally I'd like to see (a tent) go up tonight, even if it's just one tent, just to defy these f--ers."

Weaymouth said Manitoba Conservation district supervisor Joe Johannesson told him a hay bale fire last week was the final straw for the province.

"He said, 'Well, it's because of the last fire.... Safety is being threatened, so (we've) got to do this.' That's just an excuse."

"I'm disappointed at how disrespectful the police force was. They tore all the tarps. They just ripped it down and took all our stuff. They ripped all the tarps on the yurt, and that all belongs to the Twelve Tribes (community). And they ... (just) destroyed it."
KRISTAPS BALODIS, OCCUPIER

SEAN LEDWICH/METRO WINNIPEG

▶ Terry Weaymouth, standing in front of grassy patches where the camp yurt and his own tent stood until Wednesday morning, holds the enforcement notice he was issued. Unlike past notices, the box for eviction is checked off on this one.

In a written statement on Monday regarding the previous week's removal orders, the province said, "As with past orders, structures that are occupied will be allowed to remain."

In the afternoon Conservation minister Dave Chomiak told media the province decided to remove the camp when they received a report from the fire commissioner on Tuesday calling the camp unsafe.

When asked what the response would be if occupiers were to erect a new tent, Chomiak said, "We'd immediately remove it."

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Chinese villagers win concessions

State officials agree to compromise with protesters

Southern Chinese authorities have given in to key demands of protesting villagers after a nearly two-week standoff with police, agreeing in a rare compromise to release detainees and return some confiscated land to farmers.

Guangdong's deputy Communist Party secretary Zhu Mingguo told Wukan village protest leader Yang Semao on Wednesday that four villagers being held by police would be released over the next few days, Yang told The Associated Press.

"So now we are cautiously optimistic," Yang said.

The significance of the authorities' unusual concession in Wukan depends on how the details are played out, but it could affect the way other protests are handled, particularly in the corner of coastal southern China that has seen periodic unrest over the last few years. To Wukan's northeast, the coastal town of Haimen saw a second day of protests Wednesday over a planned coal-fired power plant.

Conflicts over land disputes and other issues in much of Guangdong province have been intense because the area is among China's most economically developed, pushing up land prices.

Underscoring the government's concerns about public discontent, China's security czar Zhou Yongkang met Wednesday with law-and-order officials and told them to improve the resolution of social conflicts and promote fair and honest law enforcement, state media reported.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Local tension

- Wukan, a village of nearly 20,000, has for months been the site of simmering protests by locals who say officials sold farmland to developers without their consent.
- Villagers drove out local officials and police almost two weeks ago after key village representatives were taken away.
- One of the detainees later died in police custody, further angering villagers, who believe he was beaten.
- Authorities say Xue Jinbo died of cardiac failure. In another concession, Zhu agreed to launch a new investigation into Xue's death, Yang Semao said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ In this Dec. 5 file photo, Xue Jinbo, a key representative from Wukan village, speaks to villagers from a stepladder during a protest against the government's farmland sale in Wukan of Lufeng, in China's Guangdong province.

News in brief

Cargo-ship missiles impounded

FIREPOWER. Finnish authorities on Wednesday impounded 160 tonnes of explosives and 69 surface-to-air missiles found on a British-flagged cargo ship ultimately destined for Shanghai, officials said.

The M/S Thor Liberty sailed from the north German port of Emden on Dec. 13 and two days later docked in Kotka, southern Finland, to pick up a cargo of anchor chains, Finnish Customs spokesman Petri Lounatmaa said.

Nuke cleanup could take 40 years: Japan

FUTURE ROAD MAP. Japan's government said Wednesday that it could take 40 years to clean up and fully decommission a nuclear plant that went into meltdown after it was struck by a huge tsunami.

Nuclear crisis minister Goshi Hosono suggested that the timetable was ambitious, acknowledging that decommissioning three reactors with severely melted fuel plus spent fuel rods at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant was an "unprecedented project," and that the process was not "totally foreseeable."

Chinese traffic accident claims student lives: Report

CRASH. Chinese state media say at least two primary students have been killed and 20 others injured in the latest accident involving schoolchildren on rural Chinese roads.

Xinhua News Agency says the children were aboard a horse-drawn wagon that collided with a truck in Qiubei county in southwest Yunnan province on Wednesday.

It gave no other details.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bale should be ashamed of himself: China

Batman star Christian Bale should feel embarrassed for trying to visit a human-rights activist while he was in China to promote a movie the country has submitted for an Academy Award, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

Bale was physically stopped by government-backed guards from visiting blind activist Chen Guangcheng, who lives under house arrest in eastern China, last week. A CNN crew he was travelling with recorded the scuffle.

Asked whether the publicity has been embarrassing, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin said he thought the actor should feel embarrassed, not China. He said Bale was invited by director Zhang Yimou to attend the opening ceremony of the film The Flowers of War. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Chiquita's gone bananas: Group

Company denies oilsands boycott

Oilsands advocates will keep calling a decision by Chiquita Brands to avoid oilsands-derived fuel a boycott — even though the food multinational says that's wrong.

"You can word it any way you want, but if your goal is to not use Canadian oilsands oil, that's a boycott," said Kathryn Marshall of EthicalOil.org, which has sponsored radio ads and public demonstrations against Chiquita.

Yesterday, a pair of sombrero- and poncho-clad supporters handed out brochures in front of an Edmonton grocery store, urging customers to boycott Chiquita.

"Chiquita Brands International has declared war on the livelihood of Alberta families," said the brochure.

Hi, friends

- More than 1,600 people have joined EthicalOil's Facebook site about the issue, said Kathryn Marshall.

That overstates the case, said Chiquita spokesperson Ed Loyd. "Chiquita is not banning or boycotting Canadian fuel," he said.

"Chiquita currently utilizes, and will continue to utilize, Canadian fuel sources.

"We have encouraged our suppliers to test alternative energy sources, more fuel-efficient vehicles, and to source, where possible, various fuel sources that have a lower carbon footprint and commit to a strategy of continuous improvement."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AMY SANCETTA/THECANADIAN PRESS/AP

▶ When is a boycott not a boycott? Chiquita — the banana giant — says it wants to test alternative energy sources. EthicalOil.org is convinced that's a boycott of oilsands oil.

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U.S. troops accused in soldier's 'suicide'

Zangabad was the kind of place in Afghanistan that used to send shivers down the spines of Canadian troops — a cauldron of roadside bombs, booby traps and ambushes.

U.S. soldiers stepped into that breach, 45 kilometres southwest of Kandahar city, six months ago.

And now eight of them stand accused of contributing to the death of one of their own.

Pte. Danny Chen, 19, an infantryman with the C Company of the 3rd Battalion, 21st U.S. Infantry Regiment, apparently committed suicide on Oct. 3 — an alleged victim of bullying and abuse, according to U.S. media reports.

Eight of his platoon mates have been charged with counts ranging from dereliction of duty to making a false statement to assault, negligent homicide and reckless endangerment.

JIN LEE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Soldiers carry the casket of Pte. Danny Chen, 19, during his funeral procession in New York's Chinatown last October. Chen was found in a guard tower in Kandahar province with "an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound," said the U.S. army.

NATO sources, who were not authorized to speak to the media, confirmed Chen was among replacements sent to 3-21 Infantry following weeks of hard fighting in the summer. He apparently had a tough time fitting in and being accepted by the combat veterans.

A Chinese-American activist has pushed for an investigation into Chen's death.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian named in Gadhafi case stays in jail

A Canadian woman being held in Mexico over an alleged plot involving Moammar Gadhafi's son will have to stay in jail for another 40 days.

Cynthia Vanier's father, John MacDonald, said yesterday: "They're still investigating, so she stays where she is."

Vanier, a mediator based in Mount Forest, Ont., is accused by Mexico of planning to illegally smuggle the late Libyan dictator's son al-Saadi Gadhafi into Mexico.

MacDonald said he and his wife are worried about her health issues.

"Her blood pressure was 180 over 90, she's seen a doctor, she has some kidney problems," he said.

John Babcock, a spokesperson for Diane Ablonczy, minister of State of Foreign Affairs, said Canada is providing consular assistance to Vanier and her family.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Killer doc loses medical licence

Toronto surgeon involved in liposuction death gets 2-year suspension Also faces public rebuke, hefty fine

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Dr. Behnaz Yazdanfar leaves the Ontario College of Physicians in Toronto in this 2009 file photo.

A self-styled cosmetic surgeon who carried on doing a liposuction procedure even though a post-operative patient was dying in a room next door has lost her licence for two years, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario decided Wednesday.

"(Yazdanfar's) lack of knowledge and/or ability, and her faulty judgment ended in tragic consequences," Ontario's medical regulator said in its decision.

"She violated her professional responsibility by treating not just one but many patients in an unsafe manner."

Yazdanfar, a family doctor who moved exclusively into liposuction and breast augmentation in 2003, was found to have violated professional standards last May in regard to numerous patients.

In one case, Krista Stryland, 32, died after Yazdanfar removed more than six litres of fat from over 30 per cent of her body — well above the five-litre maximum standard — which was "frankly dangerous," college documents show.

When Stryland went into shock, Yazdanfar failed to respond properly, the college said. The owner and operator of the Toronto Cosmetic Clinic went to perform another procedure as Stryland lay dying in the recovery room.

"Standing by and failing to call 911 when appropriate in the Krista Stryland case demonstrated that she was not up to the task of caring for this critically ill patient," the college found.

219 **In addition, Dr. Behnaz Yazdanfar will have to face a public reprimand, and pay $219,000 in costs.**

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEADLY SILICONE

France may pay to remove exploding breast implants

Emmanuelle Maria's breasts were burning and globules of silicone gel were protruding into her armpits.

Her implants had exploded inside her. Yet her doctors, she says, told her nothing was wrong.

Now, she wants the French government to tell 30,000 women to get their implants removed — at the state's expense — to call attention to their risks and save others from potential pain and indignity.

Prompted by calls from implant wearers and leading doctors, French health authorities are considering a drastic and unprecedented move: recommending mass surgery to rid the country of a type of breast implant that investigators say was secretly made with cheap industrial silicone whose medical dangers remain unclear.

Governments around Europe are hanging on France's decision Friday.

Tens of thousands more women in Britain, Italy, Spain and other European nations are walking around with the same pre-filled implants, made by the now-defunct French company Poly Implant Prothese, or PIP.

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RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

▶ Israeli Tomer Majerowicz is escorted into Halifax provincial court by a Border Services agent yesterday. Majerowicz and seven other Israelis pleaded guilty to working illegally in Canada.

Illegal workers must pay $1,000

Eight Israelis pulled from Halifax home plead guilty

JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN HALIFAX

Eight Israeli citizens pleaded guilty yesterday to working illegally in Halifax.

Two more were to appear in Halifax provincial court Thursday morning.

Border Services agents, assisted by police, searched a home in the Halifax area early yesterday morning. Search warrants covering three area malls were also issued.

"They lied to me that it was legal work."
ACCUSED ISRAELI PAZ KFIR, 21, SPEAKING TO THE COURT

The Israelis were said to be working at kiosks selling gel heating pads to Christmas shoppers.

Border agents escorted a number of people in handcuffs out of the Halifax home throughout the day. A few neighbours said they weren't surprised.

"I've been suspicious of that house for a while," said one neighbour.

Albert Price, manager of the criminal investigations division for Canada Border Services Agency, said eight men and two women were arrested for working without authorization or employing foreign nationals.

One woman, Paz Kfir, 21, told court she was offered what she thought at first was legal work.

Kfir, like the seven others who appeared in court yesterday, pleaded guilty and were handed $1,000 fines — which they need to pay by Jan. 27.

Booze bad, pot OK: B.C.ers

Columbians believe alcohol is more dangerous than marijuana, a new Angus Reid poll suggests.

In an online survey among 800 B.C. adults, 59 per cent of respondents disagreed that regular marijuana use is more harmful than regular alcohol use.

The poll also found that 54 per cent of B.C. residents do not agree marijuana is a dangerous and addictive drug.

And 51 per cent say they don't believe marijuana is a "gateway" drug that can lead to the use of other dangerous drugs.

The survey commissioned by Stop the Violence B.C. — a coalition of academic, legal, law enforcement and health experts trying to legalize marijuana — was conducted from Sept. 7 to 9, 2011.

Jodie Emery, wife of pot activist Marc Emery, said this new information proves public support for legalization is growing.

"The science and the evidence are all there," Emery said.

"You can't deny the truth, and the truth is backed up by evidence and proof."

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Columbus link to syphilis in Europe back in spotlight

A 500-year-old debate in anthropological circles involving whether Christopher Columbus and his crew brought syphilis back to Europe has been re-ignited thanks to a new report published in the Yearbook of Physical Anthropology.

The study's authors, George Armelagos, an anthropologist at Emory University along with Molly Zuckerman, assistant professor at Mississippi State University and Kristin Harper, currently a postdoctoral fellow at Columbia University have concluded that there is no adequate evidence to suggest syphilis was prevalent in Europe prior to Columbus' historic voyage in 1492.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease caused by the bacterium Treponema pallidum.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

More to Korean grief than meets t

Not all North Koreans are likely to feel genuine remorse Some may even be hoping for change

The scenes of mass grief coming from North Korea — people falling to the ground weeping and cries of anguish amid sombre crowds — look forced.

More than theatrical, the mass mourning over the death of dictator Kim Jong Il is being driven by a mix of forces. Loss and fear of an uncertain future — the same emotions that many feel at the death of a loved one — become contagious in crowds. Added to that are the perils of crossing a police state. Self-interest is at work too, as many North Koreans work for the ruling Workers' Party, the military and state companies and institutions.

Poor and largely isolated from outside information, North Koreans grieve in an atmosphere that is part family mourning, part coercion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contagious

- **"Mourning, like laughter,** is contagious in a social network," said Scott Atran, an American anthropologist who studies the psychology of groups at France's National Centre for Scientific Research.
- **"People usually believe** they are slightly exceptional to the norm. But if they want to be part of the group they over-exaggerate and go toward the extreme of what they think the norm is," Atran said.

▶ Citizens grieve as they visit a portrait of late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il on display in the plaza of the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium on Wednesday.

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he eye

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian troops massacre 100 villagers: Activists

As government troops advanced on a village in northwestern Syria, activists say the terrified residents fled into a valley for fear of being arrested or worse. What happened next, one of the activists said, was "an organized massacre."

The troops surrounded the valley and unleashed a barrage of rockets, tank shells, bombs and gunfire in an hours-long assault, according to two human-rights groups and a witness, killing more than 100 people and leaving no survivors in one of the bloodiest days of a crackdown by President Bashar al-Assad against a nine-month popular uprising.

The White House said it was "deeply disturbed" by Tuesday's attack, France called it a "murderous spiral," and the Arab League reminded the al-Assad regime of its responsibilities to protect its civilians.

The United Nations says more than 5,000 people have died since March as Syria has sought to put down the uprising — part of the Arab Spring of protests that has toppled long-serving unpopular leaders in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

Members of Syria's opposition said the bloodshed outside the village of Kfar Owaid, about 30 miles from the northern border with Turkey in Idlib province, was evidence of the authoritarian leader's intent to intensify its crackdown on the uprising before Arab League observers arrive in the country Thursday. The death toll from two days of violence this week topped 200, including up to 70 army defectors killed near the city of Idlib, the activists said.

"It was an organized massacre," said Rami Abdul-Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based activist group.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. reaction

- **The Obama administration** reacted to the latest reports by renewing its call for Bashar al-Assad to step down, saying he "does not deserve to rule Syria."
- **"The United States** is deeply disturbed by credible reports that the al-Assad regime continues to indiscriminately kill scores of civilians and army defectors, while destroying homes and shops and arresting protesters without due process," the White House said in a statement.

Burning. The Clocks

▶ People watch fireworks at the end of the Burning The Clocks Festival on Wednesday in Brighton, England.

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

Winter solstice marked

The annual celebration, enjoyed by thousands of people who carry paper lanterns through the streets of Brighton, culminates on Brighton Beach, where the lanterns are burned and the winter solstice is marked.

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Controversial EU airline carbon charge gets go-ahead from court

MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ An airplane takes off at Berlin's Tegel airport during snowy and stormy weather last January.

U.S. airlines failed Wednesday to block an EU law charging airlines flying to Europe for their carbon pollution. The decision by an EU court was widely hailed by environmentalists but the Fitch ratings agency said it raised the spectre of a global trade dispute.

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg dismissed arguments that imposing the European Union's cap-and-trade carbon-credits program on flights to and from European airports infringes on national sovereignty or violates international aviation treaties. U.S. and other non-European airlines had sued the EU, arguing that they were exempt from the law.

Environmentalists called the law a first step in controlling carbon emissions in a key economic sector. But Fitch Ratings said the decision could deepen rather than quell the dispute, raised in a lawsuit brought by U.S. and Canadian airlines acting through the industry trade organization Airlines for America. The protest was supported by China, India and others with international carriers.

The U.S. airlines said the regulation was tantamount to "an exorbitant tax," but the EU said the added costs would amount to a few dollars per ticket. Fitch added that retaliation could come in the form of slot allocations at airports and authorizing routes, especially in developing countries.

The program, due to go into effect Jan. 1, aims to make airlines accountable for their carbon emissions. Aviation is the fastest-growing source of carbon pollution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 36.65 (11,753.53)	+ 0.42¢ (97.48¢ US)
OIL	**Natural gas**
+ 1.43¢ US ($98.67 US)	$3.155 US (+ 2.7¢ US)
	Gold
	$1,613.60 US (- $4.00 US)

Yahoo and Facebook get closer

Yahoo is deepening its connections with Facebook's online social network.

The latest bond announced late Tuesday will enable Facebook users to share more of their activities on Yahoo's websites, including which stories they are reading.

Yahoo Inc. introduced the Facebook-sharing option in its main new section three months ago. The same feature will now be available in 26 other parts of Yahoo's site, including its "omg" service for entertainment news and sections devoted to television, movies and games.

Yahoo is hoping to give people more reasons to visit and stick around its website. Yahoo ultimately wants to sell more online advertising — an area where Facebook has been gaining ground. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pilots get new rules for rest

Rules aimed at preventing airline pilots from flying while dangerously fatigued were issued Wednesday by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, a move safety advocates have been urging for more than two decades.

The rules update current pilot work schedule regulations to reflect studies on how much time pilots need for rest and how travel through time zones can affect performance.

The FAA estimated the cost to the industry at US$297 million over 10 years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ A customer looks at a BlackBerry Torch at a Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif.

Proposed takeovers of RIM dismissed

- Analysts grapple over BlackBerry maker's future
- Shares up 10 per cent with proposal from Amazon

With more takeover rumours roiling around Research In Motion and lifting its stock price, analysts said Wednesday there's little chance the struggling BlackBerry maker will be acquired in the near future.

"I think from the board's perspective, which tends to be friendly to the co-CEOs, they will want to give them a chance because six months ago this was a $50 stock," William Blair & Co. analyst Anil Doradla said.

Reuters reported Tuesday that Internet retailer Amazon.com recently approached RIM to discuss a takeover, but the Canadian company rejected the move. In the past, Microsoft and Nokia also dabbled in potential offers, but they were also rebuffed by RIM. Samsung, a growing player in the smartphone market, also has been named as a potential suitor.

$265M RIM's quarterly profits plunged to US$265 million, a drop from $911 million in the same three-month period last year.

"We continue to view near-term mergers and acquisitions for RIM as very unlikely given the company's dismal performance and uncertain outlook," said National Bank Financial analyst Kris Thompson.

RIM has disappointed investors recently with the delay of its next generation of BlackBerry smartphones until late 2012 and disappointing financial results.

BMO Capital Markets analyst Tim Long said an acquisition is unlikely due to RIM's business model.

RIM makes the operating system and puts it into its own handset, delivering a complete product. It's also a service provider to its corporate customers with secure, encrypted email.

"RIM is the only hybrid equipment manufacturer and service provider," Long wrote in a note.

Activist shareholder Vic Alboini said the company will either be acquired as is, or broken up and sold. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economic confidence down, sales up: Reports

A new survey suggests that more than a third of Canadians — including well over half of young people — feel more stressed about their financial situation now than a year ago.

The survey by insurer Sun Life Financial says 36 per cent of respondents are more worried about their personal finances than last year. It comes as the economy slows down and volatile markets, squeezed incomes and recession fears erode consumer and business confidence. Trends have been moving negatively for months as consumers retrench and businesses worry about the economic future. A scaleback in spending is already affecting the Christmas shopping season and could lead to tighter money next year.

Still, Statistics Canada reported that retail sales rose one per cent to $38.6 billion in October, their third straight monthly increase. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Norway reaches out to partners

Norway says it will provide $9.3 billion US to the International Monetary Fund to help heavily indebted nations avoid default. Norway is not part of the EU and its economy is cushioned by income from its oil and gas exports. Still, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg noted that it's in Norway's interest to help European trading parties "who are now in a difficult economic situation." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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STRIKE THE HARP AND JOIN THE CHORUS

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I'm not much for Christmas carols.

I enjoy the joking songs, like Santa Baby or The Christmas Shoes, but otherwise the only holiday tune I like is the creepy Carol of the Bells, which brings to mind the warm holiday image of Santa Claus being stabbed repeatedly with a candy cane.

So, in a bid to make myself a better, more Christmassy person, I decided this week to open myself up to some holiday "classics" for the first time in years. And let me say that, upon further review, Christmas songs are bonkers.

There's We Wish You a Merry Christmas, with its special yuletide message of "Bring us some figgy pudding or we will tear you limb from limb."

There's Winter Wonderland, the story of a man planning a fun day that includes building a snowman, pretending it's a priest and talking to it about his marital future. I'm thinking his belle doesn't know this plan yet and that, if she did, she'd have to "hurry on her way," Frosty-style.

"Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow."

Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow. He leaves him there, possibly for dead. I must say it rather improves the song.

The hands-down winner, though, of Craziest Christmas Carol is Do You Hear What I Hear? I assume it was written when absinthe still had kick.

It starts with the wind asking a lamb if it sees a dancing star. In most songs, that would be excitement enough. But there's more: The lamb asks his shepherd, with whom he has a good working relationship, if he hears singing.

You would think the shepherd would then realize he's been putting in too many 12-hour days and should really take that Dead Sea stroll he's been saving for. But instead he runs to the mighty king, who apparently has no security at his mighty castle, and tells the monarch the joyous news: "I found a talking lamb!"

No — of course, he tells him that a child is shivering in the cold. With no women around, the king and shepherd's best plan for getting the baby warm is to bring it silver and gold.

Between the talking animal and the potential case of child neglect, this song is one hell of a wild ride.

So, I'll admit, Christmas carols are more fun than I remembered. They should be sung far and wide by you and your family and your lamb, if you have one.

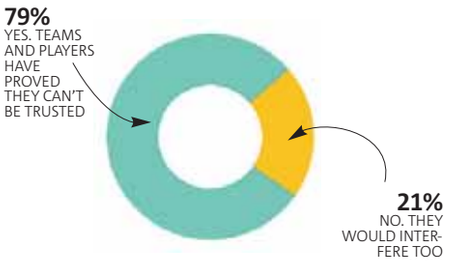
And though it's been said, many times, many ways: Bring me my figgy pudding.

Or else.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should independent doctors monitor concussions in pro sports?



Local tweets

- **@mattske83:** Food truck food coma achievement unlocked! #yyc @yycfoodtrucks
- **@paige_sierra:** Geez talk about drama. I'm over it #yyc let's get on with our lives.
- **@mommytree74:** What an absolutely gorgeous Calgary day out there! Love all this sunshine. #yyc
- **@MattSander:** Phogasm @ Bagolac Saigon #yyc best in the city.
- **@MitchDubYYZ:** On the way to the Airport! Almost home #yyc I come bearing gifts
- **@deborahtetley:** Anyone in #yyc know where I can buy an ice cream ball? To make your own ice cream? #camping
- **@ShinooD:** Riddle me this: what's to say that if #iggy leaves #yyc that he will go to a cup winning team?? I vote stay
- **@kasmcrae:** Parking lot covered in snow = people can't park straight. #yyc

Daily Zoom

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

Christmas comes early

Taking treats from a tiger

Sumatran tiger cubs tore apart a wrapped Christmas present at Taronga Zoo on Wednesday in Sydney. Animals received Christmas-themed enrichment foods as part of the zoo's regular program to encourage the animals to forage for food and help improve hunting abilities.

GETTY IMAGES

Quite the yuletide feast

Barry the Tasmanian devil got a bowl of kangaroo blood with offal and bones while freshly made popcorn was served to the gorillas, who are kept on a low-fat diet. The zoo's seals got blue swimmer crabs and fish snacks delivered in ice from the Sydney Fish Markets, the CBC reported. METRO

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

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2 scene

Split

Jessica Lange and Sam Shepard have separated after nearly 30 years together. A publicist for Lange confirmed the split Monday. People magazine first reported the separation, saying the actors concluded their relationship almost two years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CBS has year's biggest margin of victory in prime time ratings

Heart and Stroke Foundation encouraging Calgarians to be Death Defying this season

BACKSTAGE PASS

JENNIFER LARAWAY
METRO CALGARY

This year, my resolution is going to be to defy death. That's right grim reaper, you can keep on moving because this year (at the tender age of 30), I am taking my heart health more seriously and so will a bunch of other people from Calgary.

I don't have any family history of the disease or early warning signs, but I did get a big wakeup call when I spoke with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Alberta's Senior Fund Development Coordinator Scott McRae.

"80 per cent of heart attacks and strokes are preventable," he tells me.

He also stresses the fact that every seven minutes someone in Canada dies from heart disease or stroke.

"Think being active for 10 hours a month defies death? It absolutely does."

McRae is referring to a challenge his organization is putting out to all those people who are resolving (or resisting) to get into shape come 2012.

Amply named the Death Defying Challenge, this month-long event puts a unique twist on awareness and fundraising efforts.

"The people participating are accountable to their own donors," McRae explains.

In order to qualify for the celebration weekend (held at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise), participants have to meet their targets in both fundraising and activity hours.

The organization came up with the idea after brainstorming ways to liven up their annual fundraising event that had 36 years behind it.

A month-long challenge enabled them to reach more people, but in order to achieve their goals they knew they needed to be different from other events — so, they went with an edgy and commanding title: Death Defying.

"The name was hotly debated," McRae says of the branding process.

"But, people felt it created a sense of urgency — the time is now to take control of your health and that's the message we want people to take away."

Although they hope to raise close to $300,000, it's the participants who benefit the most from coming to the event.

"The research shows it takes about three weeks to get a habit engrained, so that's why we chose a month-long challenge. It will help motivate people in keeping up with their commitments," says McRae.

To participate in the Jan. 1 – 29 challenge, visit defydeath.ca.

HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION OF ALBERTA

▶ Any activity scores you redeemable points in the Death Defying Challenge.

Fighting against false 'idols'

American Idol runner-up Archuleta taking a break to serve on a Mormon church mission

American Idol runner-up David Archuleta will take a break from his singing career to serve a two-year proselytizing mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The contestant from the 2007-2008 season made the announcement during a Christmas concert Monday in downtown Salt Lake City, according to the Deseret News.

The 20-year-old Miami native, who grew up in Murray, Utah, said he's not quitting music, but feels a strong call to serve the church.

A video of the concert on Archuleta's website shows him overwhelmed with emotion and crying as he talks about his plans. The crowd screams wildly with the news and gives him a standing ovation.

"It's not because someone told me that I'm supposed to do it, and not because I no longer want to do music, but because it's the feeling that I've felt I need to do this with my life," Archuleta told the crowd.

Archuleta was 16 when he competed on Idol.

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CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ David Archuleta

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Did Jones get the 'X'?

There are rumours The X-Factor host Steve Jones won't be back next season Jones' rep denies the claims

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Steve Jones reportedly will not return as host the U.S. edition of The X-Factor after one season on the job, according to Hollyscoop.

"He got terrible reviews from critics when he started, and things haven't got better. There have been mistakes and he just doesn't seem to have the knack for dealing with contestants," a source says.

"The executives at Fox have already decided not to renew his contract and so, short of a miracle happening, it is pretty much a done deal that he will not take part next season."

However, Jones' rep told People magazine that the reports of his imminent dismissal were "a fabrication." "There have been absolutely no conversations about Steve Jones leaving The X Factor," the representative told the magazine.

It's sad that a rumoured firing is the only way to make people care about The X-Factor.

▶ Steve Jones

Timberlake off the market?

I take this with a huge grain of salt, but some people out there on the world wide web are reporting that Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel are engaged. (Remember: This is the same Internet that also said that Bon Jovi died earlier this week.) Lainey Gossip points to this Tweet from a gallery owner in Jackson, Wy.: "Word on the street is that Justin Timberlake proposed to Jessica Biel at the Amangani last night...we're picking out post-engagement presents for them just in case they come in! Trying to play it cool..."

Sounds like a huge publicity stunt from the gallery store owner but you never know.

▶ Justin Timberlake

▶ Justin Bieber

More baby troubles for the Biebs

Justin Bieber may have thought taking a DNA test had gotten him clear of Mariah Yeater, the woman claiming Bieber is the father of her baby, but as far as Yeater is concerned nothing has been resolved.

"I dropped my lawsuit, but never my claim," Yeater tells the Chicago Sun-Times. "I still definitely want a DNA test and I want to refile my paternity case — I do believe he is the father."

METRO

Penn a 'communist'

Sean Penn reportedly got into a screaming match at LAX airport recently with former co-star — and longtime Penn critic — Maria Conchita Alonso, the actress reveals. "I said, 'You are a communist, Sean Penn.' He said, 'You are a pig!' So I said, 'And you are a communist a–hole! Is it great to live the way you do as a communist?'" Alonso says. The actress, who starred with Penn in 1988's Colors, says she wanted to apologize.

METRO

Angry Anthony eyes custody battle with JLo

While they've remained civil since their July split, it's reportedly about to get very ugly between Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony, with a "vicious" custody battle on the way, according to Us Weekly.

The trigger seems to be Lopez's new boyfriend, Casper Smart, and his apparent bonding with Lopez and Anthony's 3-year-old twins, Max and Emme. Antony reportedly "hit the roof" after seeing photos of Lopez, Smart and the kids enjoying Thanksgiving together in Hawaii and is "going back on his word and saying he wants joint custody," a source says.

"He wants to make Jennifer suffer because she's having fun with someone new, and he knows this will hurt her on the deepest level."

METRO

▶ Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart

Celebrity tweets

@joelmchale

Thanks news outlets. I am now fully informed about how the Post Office is busier around the holidays. Man, was I in the dark.

@rosariodawson

I'm so glad I made it back to London in time to surprise my Mama with Duran Duran at the O2! They just played my song! Rio!!!!!!

@NathanFillion

Dear Morning Coffee, How was your ride to work on top of my car? Glad you made it. But now you're iced coffee.

@sarahksilverman

Had a war time dream where I had to go to battle but I didn't want to because I had a zit

New York hurry to tie the knot

Anne Hathaway is ready to marry fiancé Adam Shulman — but apparently not as ready as the New York Post would like.

The newspaper reported earlier this week that the couple had set an October 2012 wedding date and had even sent out save-the-date cards to guests for a lavish, New York-area ceremony.

However Hathaway's rep insists that there is no date and no cards have been sent out, according to a report from E! News.

METRO

Marc Anthony's no Scrooge

Marc Anthony knows how to treat his employees at Christmas.

As an end-of-the-year bonus, the singer reportedly treated his 14-person staff to a trip to the Dominican Republic, according to TMZ. Anthony is even covering all the food, drink and entertainment the staff can handle during their five-day stay at the La Romana resort. Not too shabby.

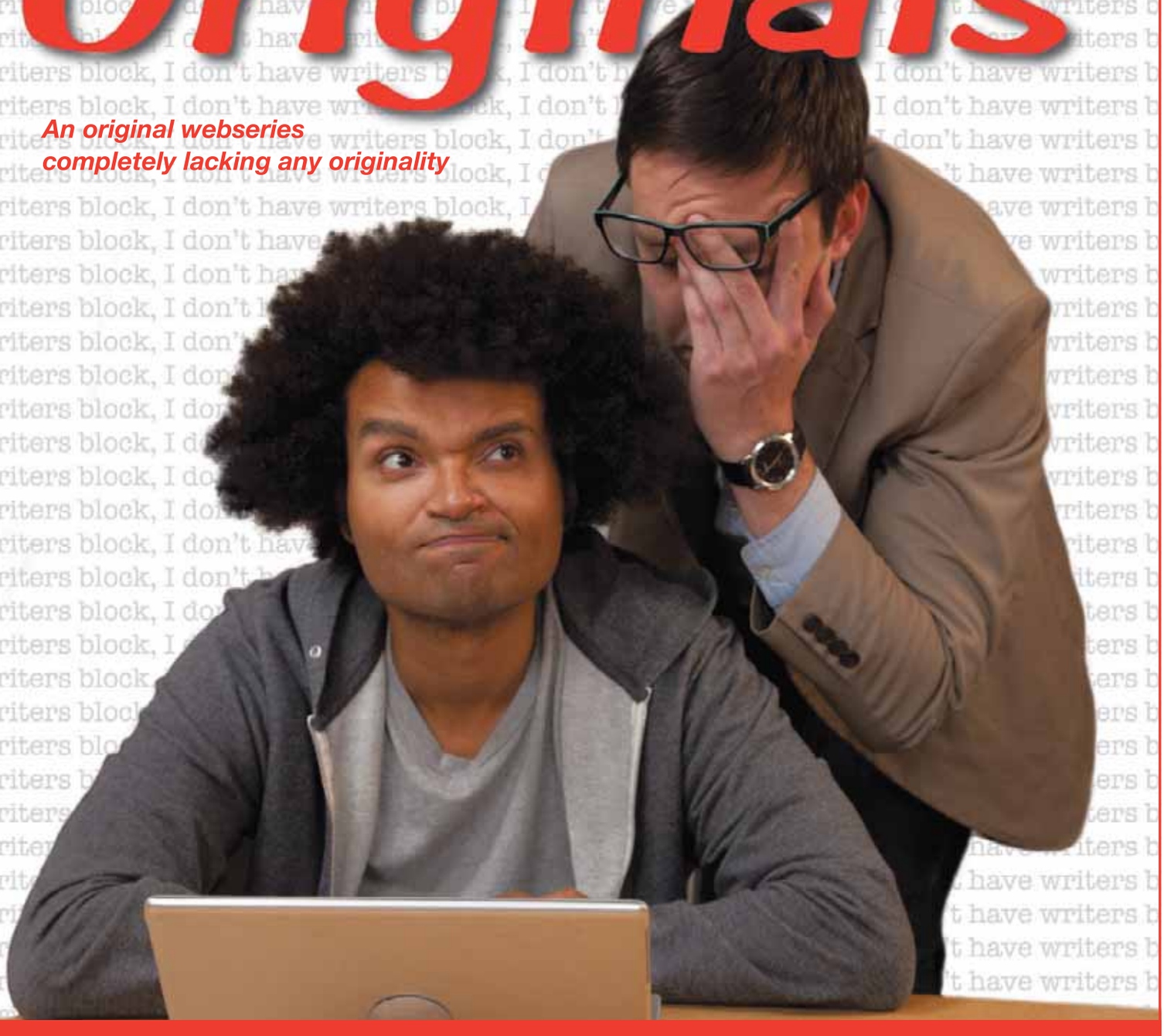
METRO

Marc Anthony

From a writer of "The Office"...

Originals

An original webseries completely lacking any originality



In today's episodes...

The Originals webseries draws to a close today with episodes 8 and 9. Will the guys finally come up with an original TV show idea for their big pitch meeting? Will Jason win Carina? Will Marsha win Jason? Will Trish really help Bryce? Will there be a wrap party? Find out the answers to these and other intriguing questions. Watch the concluding episodes today.

Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries

3 life

Style pick

Keep your eyes on Beyoncé's little sis

Fashion blogs and magazines have rightfully acknowledged how amazing Solange Knowles has been looking lately. But it's time for the rest of the world to get in line.

MWN

Michael Kors goes from runway to Wall Street after investors clamour for stock

In and out of fashion

WHO TAKES THE CROWN?

KENYA HUNT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Catherine Middleton, Kate Moss and Charlene Wittstock went head-to-head in the battle of the best-dressed brides. The couture creations all took to the catwalk-like church aisles to be picked apart. Here's what we learned for it all.

1 Long-sleeves are back, thanks to the Duchess of Cambridge. Just look at the new Twilight movie.

2 A pretty gown can't hide the fact that you can't stand the groom. We can barely remember how the Princess of Monaco's dress looked, but we'll never forget that eerie frozen smile on her face.

3 Never mind that the idea has been a staple of cheesetastic weddings for years, it's now perfectly OK to have 15 bridesmaids in your wedding — as long as they look like little pre-Raphaelite angels like the ones in Kate Moss'. You want to channel rock and roll royalty, rather than prom queens from hell.

4 Never, ever, five more evers, give your maid of honour a hotter dress than yours. We've all heard the horror stories about a rival woman stealing the bride's day. But your own sister? The Pippa Middleton Ass Appreciation Society is still going strong on Facebook.

But have you seen any Kate Middleton Victorian Bustle Admiration Councils, hmmm?

5 Kate Moss is cooler than the real Royals. Mark Ronson, Naomi Campbell, Vivienne Westwood and Marc Jacobs were just a few of the people who attended her wedding.

GETTY IMAGES

Kate and Jamie are in love with a rock 'n' world.

GETTY IMAGES

GETTY IMAGES

THE YEAR'S MOST OVERRATED FASHION PLATES

THE KARDASHIANS

- Sky-high Louboutins, black stretch jeans and leopard print do not a fashion icon make.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

- She makes this list simply for inconsistency. Sometimes she nails it. Other times, such as her crystal-encrusted nude bodysuit on the American Music Awards, she fails miserably.

JESSICA SIMPSON

- Her clothing line is reportedly nearly worth a billion dollars. But we don't get it. Have you seen the way she dresses?

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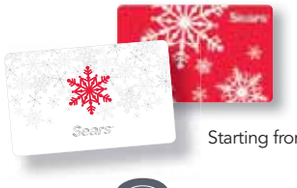

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Arch appeal: Achieve simple, spirited brows

THE KIT

By Janine Falcon

Bold brows wowed from the most recent runways, theatrically at Jean Paul Gaultier and Alexander Wang, and in a more wearable fashion from Jill Stuart and Prada.

Powders and pencils are brow-building staples, but fine-tip marker-like pens are on the rise, like the one Anastasia launched a few years back.

Now available from Stila, Urban Decay and Gosh, they offer sheer, long-lasting shades that suit everyone from light blonde to dark brunette.

Fine-tipped tools:

• Magic Markers Stila All Day Waterproof Brow Color in Medium (also comes in Light). $27 each, stilacosmetics.com.

• Gosh Long Lasting Brow Pens, in Dark Brown, Wheat, Mahogany and Venetian Brown. $15 each, goshcosmetics.com.

• Urban Decay Urban Brow Precision Tip Brow Tint in Universal Blonde and Universal Brunette. $24 each, urbandecay.com

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Jeanne Space

In this hectic modern world, Twitter has become a cool and succinct way of communicating. It allows me to be accessible, instantly speak my mind, and connects me with all kinds of people. Whether it's a fashion question, or you just want to comment on life's bigger picture, I'd love to hear from you.

@Jeanne_Beker:
Now pre-taping 2 @CTVCanadaAM segments: 2011's top style mavens + fashion's top news stories. Who do YOU think rocked style this year?

- **@MsJoyce_xo:** so many choices but if they put Pippa Middleton on another best dressed list I am going to lose my mind. #idontseeit
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** I know... But hard to ignore. And better than some ol' movie star....
- **@WordfromSteph:** Kate Winslet. She's totally coming out of her shell. Her Cover shoot for British Glamour = fabulous!!
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Agree!!!!
- **@escobar700:** for the man...Adam Levels/ Anderson Cooper. For the ladies, Lady Gaga, Sarah Jessica Parker, Victoria Beckham Tilda Swinton.
- **@Jeanne_Beker:** Cool choices!

▶ @Jeanne_Beker: Xmas shopping @TeatroVerdi with my mum. True Joy!

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H&M breathes fire into Dragon collection

Stieg Larsson's enigmatic anti-heroine Lisbeth Salander, from the bestselling books and upcoming U.S. film remake The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, is an unlikely trendsetter.

From her multiple facial piercings and choppy, jet-black hair to her ripped tees and work boots held together with duct tape, Lisbeth's look is not only unconventional, but some might find it off-putting.

"We always wanted her clothes to sort of repel people and be a means of keeping people away," said

MERRICK MORTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Rooney Mara as Lisbeth Salander

actress Rooney Mara at the film's New York premiere Wednesday.

Yet huge Swedish retailer H&M saw an opportunity in sprucing up Lisbeth's style and making it safer for the masses.

The Dragon Tattoo Collection, created by costume designer Trish Summerville, features faux-leather coats, biker pants, shredded tees and dark denim miniskirts.

"There's different key pieces that I took out of her wardrobe that she wears in the film and we kind of changed the silhouette a little bit, changed the fabrication, cleaned the pieces up," explained Summerville in a recent interview. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Double duty Christmas decor

When in a holiday pinch, use what you've got

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

For me, Christmas is all about setting a festive mood with holiday decor.

Although it would be nice to buy new holiday decor items each year, I find myself wanting to get creative with things from years past to create a more personal style to my space this year.

Here's a few ways to create interesting holiday focal points with things you might already have around the house.

Create instant holiday ambiance: Take that unused silver tray and fill it with pillar candles of various heights, tea lights, fresh greenery and a few holiday ornaments. It will look great as a dining room centrepiece.

Use your wreath as a centrepiece

Last year's faux wreath or this year's fresh one hanging on the front door can easily take a horizontal position and become a festive centrepiece.

Place a few pillar candles, some holiday ornaments or a lonely poinsettia plant inside the wreath and you've got an impressive centrepiece for any table.

Got an old plastic wreath? Spray paint it with a trendy colour like teal or citrus green for one last year of beauty.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A wreath can go from door to table as a decorative focal point.

Layer your tables with decorative fabrics

Throws, blankets and quilts can add pattern and colour to a tabletop

These work to protect the table while giving it casual flair.

Whether layering on a buffet or coffee table, try adding rich colours and tones from lux throws like faux-fur, wool plaid or chenille fabrics for a worldly look.

Look for blankets and throws made of synthetic fibres if concerned about stains.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Blankets and throws help make a decorative holiday table casual.

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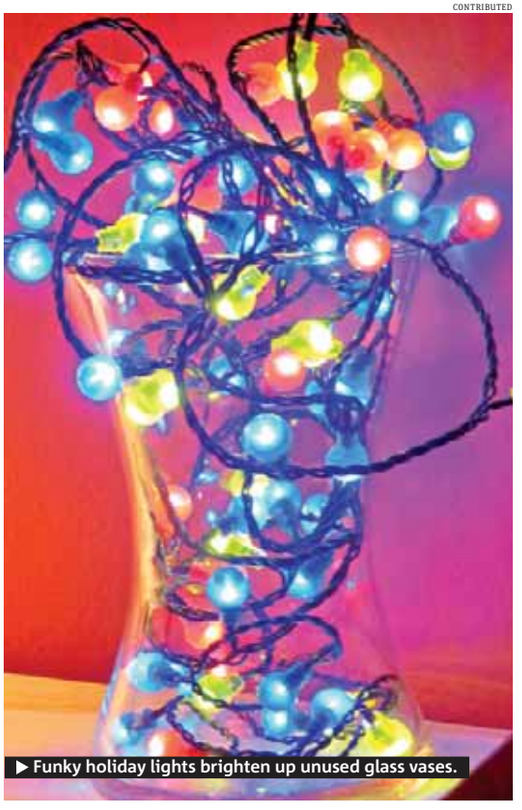


▶ Funky holiday lights brighten up unused glass vases.

Display holiday lights in a tall vase

Fill various shaped glass vases with LED string lights and group together on a sofa table or in front of an used fireplace to create a modern holiday glow. Clear vases display multi-coloured lights best while white lights look great in coloured glass vases.

This idea also makes a safe night light in a guest room, hallway or foyer to guide guests throughout your space with having to turn on bright overhead lights at night.

Simple tricks

Large glass Mason jars make great hurricane lanterns to hold pillar candles. Frost the outsides with spray snow for a wintery look.

- **Decorative wrapping papers** make festive disposable table runners or placemats, and holiday ribbons make great napkin rings.
- **Birch fire logs** can get glamourous with a quick spray of metallic gold or silver paint and stacked beside the fireplace.

A LESSON IN STAIN CONTROL

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLESMACPHERSON.COM

Hi Charles,
I bought a beautiful pink leather jacket and somehow got a couple of ballpoint pen marks on it about an inch or two long. Do you know of any method to remove these marks?

I've done some research on this and you do have a difficult problem on your hands. I have two suggestions for you. But before you do anything, remember to please first check the suggested solution on an area that is not visible to ensure you do not damage the leather. I have two options for you to try:

1. Rub the ink mark with a soft cloth dampened with milk, then sponge it with warm water.
2. Try dabbing a Q-Tip in rubbing alcohol then using the Q-Tip to slowly work on the ink mark. My only concern is that the alcohol may damage the colour of the leather. So definitely test this method first!

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK

▶ For precise stain removal, try using a Q-Tip.

Say ‘cheese’ for the New Year

Are you having people over to ring in 2012? Serve this healthy version of cheese fondue

Want a trick for starting the year off on a fun and healthy note? Drag out the fondue pot!

Fondue is a casual and social way to celebrate. The trouble is, fondue — especially cheese fondue — can be incredibly unhealthy. A classic fondue starts with rich cheeses blended with a little spice and some white wine to create a savoury sauce for dipping chunks of bread and other morsels.

This recipe lets you eat sinfully without the sin. The secret is in the blend of cheeses: A low-fat Jarlsberg, a creamy light brie and already low-calorie pecorino Romano make a rich fondue that no one will guess is low in calories and fat.

For the liquid, choose dry Champagne and a thickener similar to cornstarch called arrowroot in order to get the right consistency and flavour.

And the numbers alone are reason to celebrate. Traditional cheese fondue can pack 670 calories and 29 grams of fat per serving.

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The fondue serves four people

This version comes in with just 227 calories and 10 grams of fat.

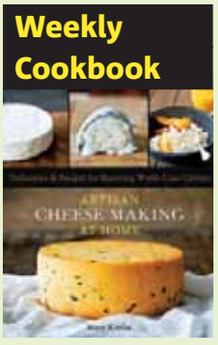
Preparation:

1. Heat broiler. Set top oven rack about 10 cm (4 inches) below broiler.
2. Cut crusts off slices of bread. Cut each bread slice into 4 equal strips. Wrap 1 bread strip halfway around one grape and poke long metal skewer through bread and grape so skewer is pushed through both ends of bread strip with grape in middle. Repeat with remaining bread strips and grapes.
3. Place all 16 skewers on baking sheet. Broil 2 mins. or until bread is browned, turning once halfway through broiling. Set aside.
4. In saucepan over medium-high, bring water and shallot to a simmer. Cook, uncovered, until shallots are tender, about 2 minutes.
5. In small bowl, mix arrowroot with 30 ml (1 oz) of Champagne. Pour remaining Champagne into saucepan with shallot. Whisk arrowroot and Champagne mix into saucepan. Continue to cook; whisk until mixture thickens, 30 seconds.
6. Reduce heat to low and add Jarlsberg, whisking constantly until cheese melts. Add pecorino and continue whisking until melted. Repeat with brie. Season to taste with salt and pinch of cayenne. Pour mix into fondue pot and serve with bread and grape skewers for dipping. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO, AUTHOR OF EAT THIS NOW!**

Ingredients:

- 4 slices of light whole-wheat bread
- 16 seedless red grapes
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) water
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced shallot
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) arrowroot powder
- 125 ml (4 oz) demi sec Champagne, divided
- 125 g (4 oz) Jarlsberg light cheese, finely shredded
- 60 g (2 oz) pecorino Romano cheese, grated
- 60 g (2 oz) light brie, cut up with rind removed
- Salt and cayenne pepper

Weekly Cookbook



Mary Karlin’s Artisan Cheese Making at Home is filled with easy-to-follow instructions for making mouthwatering cheese and dairy items.

A renowned cooking instructor, Karlin has spent years working alongside America’s most passionate artisan cheese producers.

She presents her findings in this lavishly illustrated guide, which features more than 80 recipes for a diverse range of cheeses: From quick and satisfying Mascarpone and Queso Blanco to cultured products like Crème Fraîche and Yogurt to flavourful selections like Saffron-Infused Manchego, Irish-Style Cheddar, and Bloomy Blue Log Chèvre.

Tenderloin: The secret to entertaining on a budget

Here is a recipe for the grill lover in you! In the cooler months you can still get out and grill to add tons of flavour and texture to a wonderfully tender cut of beef.

This is the one to serve a crowd this holiday season – easy and delicious.

Preparation:

1. Pat tenderloin dry with paper towels and brush meat with a thin coat of oil; set aside.
2. In a small bowl, mix together salt, pepper, garlic and cayenne. Sprinkle rub evenly over tenderloin.
3. Place tenderloin directly on greased grill over high heat and sear for 2 minutes on each side. After all the sides are seared, reduce one side of the grill to medium and the other side to the lowest possible heat. Set meat over cooler side and grill for another 30 to 40 minutes for medium-rare, or until a thermometer inserted at the thickest spot reads 55 C (130 F). Alternatively, sear in a large skillet on the stove, then set on a rack over a rimmed baking sheet and roast in a 180 C (350 F) oven. When tenderloin is done, transfer it to a platter, cover with foil and let rest for 15 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, pour cream into a large stainless-steel bowl. Using an electric mixer, whip cream until soft peaks form. Add horseradish. Taste and adjust, adding more horseradish if you like it stronger. Season to taste with lemon juice and salt.
5. Thinly slice beef and serve with horseradish cream and dinner rolls. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL (EXECUTIVE CHEF AT HILL COUNTRY BARBECUE MARKET RESTAURANTS IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS HILL COUNTRY CHICKEN IN NEW YORK)/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Ingredients:

- 1 whole beef tenderloin (about 2.2-kg/5-lb)
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) kosher salt
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) coarsely ground black pepper
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) minced garlic
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) cayenne pepper

Horseradish Cream:

- 500 ml (2 cups) 35% whipping cream
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) refrigerated prepared horseradish
- 30 mL (2 tbsp) lemon juice
- Fine-grain sea salt
- Dinner rolls

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beef Tenderloin with Horseradish Cream

The tenderloin serves 20 people.

67 calories
of Molson Canadian 67

67 calories
of Shiraz

You can have a little.

Or you can have it all.

Molson Canadian 67 is a premium light beer with a clean, crisp, fresh taste, specially brewed to 67 calories per 341ml bottle. That's about half the calories of wines or mixed drinks.*

67

Must be legal drinking age. *Calculations based on an average serving (6 oz glass of wine and single serving of mixed drink). Details at molsoncanadian67.ca

4 sports

Flames offer reasons to hope

THE HOCKEY NEWS

BRIAN COSTELLO
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

The signs are there. There's growing evidence. The results are starting to show. Perhaps there is reason to believe the Flames are a second-half team, poised again to make a winter surge and this time qualify for the playoffs.

It's more than just the fact Calgary pushed closer to .500 (they're still four games under because an overtime/shootout setback is still a loss). It's the belief that players are putting in stronger individual efforts and that, in turn, is resulting in a stronger team effort.

The Flames didn't win on their recent four-game eastern road trip, but by all rights they played well enough to deserve four points. The top line of Jarome Iginla, Olli Jokinen and Curtis Glencross is starting to cash in on chances. And much like last December, the fourth line of Tim Jackman, Tom Kostopoulos and this time Matt Stajan is the unit that jump-started the attack, more by effort than production.

Rene Bourque is still a work in progress, but he's capable of scoring in bunches. Lee Stempniak plays with more consistent effort, but he too is a bunch scorer. The same can be said, point-wise, for Blake Comeau and Brendan Morrison.

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Curtis Glencross, centre, celebrates his goal against Minnesota on Tuesday.

A lot of what unfolds in 2012 rests on the shoulders of Mikael Backlund. The third-year Swede has the credentials to be a difference maker when it comes to secondary offence. He showed that late last season and he's only now starting to show it again.

If the Flames can spread out the production, they will in turn spread out the defence that automatically focuses attention on Iginla.

And how about the defence? Jay Bouwmeester is still stuck on one goal, but boy is he playing a more entertaining brand than his first 185 games in a Calgary uniform.

Then there's the return of Anton Babchuk and potentially Mark Giordano. We all know what Giordano brings to the table, but perhaps it's what Babchuk can offer that's most unheralded. Say what you want about his erratic play in his own end, it's the booming shot on the power play that is extremely valuable.

One thing the Flames attack is missing is the cannon from the point. There isn't a defenceman in the lineup now who has an above-average blast that can strike fear in the penalty-killing unit of the opposition. Babchuk has one of the heaviest shots in the league, exactly what the power play needs.

Flames preview

Red Wings at Calgary
7:30 p.m.
TV: TSN

The Flames (15-15-4) will try for their 10th home win of the season when they face Detroit (21-10-1). The Red Wings played in Vancouver Wednesday night. Pavel Datsyuk has come alive after a slow start. In the 16 games since Nov. 17, he has 23 points and leads Detroit with 33 on the season. Henrik Zetterberg is also heating up. Heading into Wednesday's game, he was on a six-game point streak and has 10 points in nine games this month. Jiri Hudler has nine points in his last seven games.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports.

Bulls reach five-year extension with Rose

Derrick Rose was going down the list, thanking just about everyone who helped him become one of the NBA's best players, when he looked to his right.

Seated off to the side was his mother, Brenda.

"I think I can finally say this now. Mom, I finally made it," he said.

Rose, the Chicago Bulls' superstar point guard and the league's reigning MVP, agreed Wednesday to a five-year contract extension worth more than $94 million US that kicks in next season.

It's fair to say Rose made it long before this latest news conference. The extension is just another stop in a rapid and steady rise from a tough neighbourhood on Chicago's south side to a starring role with his hometown team after being taken with the No. 1 pick in the draft.

He's gone from the NBA's top rookie to all-star to MVP in just three seasons, becoming the youngest player to win the award. That's why the extension was more a formality than a surprise.

The only thing missing from his resumé is a championship and that's something he hopes to change in his fourth season.

"He embodies all the characteristics that you look for," coach Tom Thibodeau said. "It's a lot more than the talent.

"The talent is the obvious part. Then, when you look at his will to win, basketball IQ, unselfishness, his humility — I think those are the things that you can build a championship-calibre team around."

The Bulls came close to winning it all last year, leading the league with 62 victories during the regular season and advancing to the Eastern Conference final before losing to Miami.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	33	21	8	2	2	116	95	46	8-5-1-1	13-3-1-1	8-1-0-1	W1
d-Boston	32	22	9	0	1	111	63	45	12-6-0-1	10-3-0-0	8-2-0-0	W5
d-Florida	34	18	10	2	4	91	86	42	8-3-1-4	10-7-1-0	5-3-1-1	L1
NY Rangers	31	19	8	1	3	91	68	42	8-3-0-2	11-5-1-1	6-3-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	34	19	11	2	2	110	90	42	10-4-2-0	9-7-0-2	5-5-0-0	W2
New Jersey	33	18	14	0	1	91	96	37	7-6-0-1	11-8-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Toronto	33	16	13	2	2	102	108	36	7-5-2-2	9-8-0-0	3-5-2-0	L3
Ottawa	34	16	14	2	2	106	117	36	9-7-0-1	7-7-2-1	4-4-1-1	W2
Washington	32	17	14	0	1	95	97	35	11-5-0-1	6-9-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Buffalo	33	16	14	2	1	90	98	35	8-9-2-1	8-5-0-0	3-5-2-0	L2
Winnipeg	33	15	13	3	2	91	100	35	11-5-0-1	4-8-3-1	6-3-0-1	L1
Montreal	35	13	15	2	5	88	97	33	5-7-2-4	8-8-0-1	3-4-0-3	L4
Tampa Bay	32	14	16	0	2	87	107	30	8-5-0-0	6-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	W2
NY Islanders	31	11	14	4	2	72	99	28	6-8-3-0	5-6-1-2	5-3-2-1	W2
Carolina	35	10	19	4	2	89	120	26	6-10-0-2	4-9-4-0	2-6-2-0	L2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Chicago	35	22	9	1	3	118	102	48	12-2-0-3	10-7-1-0	8-1-0-1	W1
d-Minnesota	35	20	10	2	3	85	78	45	10-4-1-2	10-6-1-1	5-3-0-2	L5
d-Dallas	33	19	13	0	1	86	93	39	10-5-0-1	9-8-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Detroit	32	21	10	1	0	107	71	43	13-2-1-0	8-8-0-0	7-3-0-0	W2
Vancouver	33	20	11	0	2	110	80	42	9-4-0-1	11-7-0-1	7-2-0-1	W2
St. Louis	33	19	10	0	4	84	72	42	13-3-0-1	6-7-0-3	6-2-0-2	L1
Phoenix	34	18	13	1	2	90	89	39	7-7-1-1	11-6-0-1	5-5-0-0	W2
Nashville	33	17	12	3	1	86	88	38	8-5-2-1	9-7-1-0	6-4-0-0	L1
San Jose	30	17	10	2	1	86	74	37	10-6-1-0	7-4-1-1	4-4-1-1	W2
Colorado	35	17	17	1	0	94	104	35	11-9-0-0	6-8-1-0	6-4-0-0	W3
Los Angeles	33	15	14	2	2	72	81	34	8-9-0-1	7-5-2-1	4-6-0-0	W1
Calgary	34	15	15	2	2	84	95	34	9-5-1-1	6-10-1-1	5-3-1-1	W1
Edmonton	33	14	16	0	3	89	90	31	9-6-0-2	5-10-0-1	2-7-0-1	L4
Anaheim	33	9	19	2	3	78	110	23	7-9-1-0	2-10-1-3	3-6-1-0	L3
Columbus	33	9	20	1	3	80	111	22	6-10-1-1	3-10-0-2	3-6-1-0	L3

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Chicago 5 Montreal 1
Colorado 3 St. Louis 2
Philadelphia 4 Dallas 1
Phoenix 4 Carolina 3
Detroit at Vancouver
Tampa Bay at San Jose
Tuesday's results
Calgary 2 Minnesota 1
Ottawa 4 Buffalo 1
N.Y. Islanders 3 Winnipeg 2 (SO)
N.Y. Rangers 4 New Jersey 1
Phoenix 2 Florida 1
Pittsburgh 3 Chicago 2
Washington 4 Nashville 1
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Florida at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Columbus at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Montreal at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Detroit at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Toronto at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Washington at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Calgary at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Los Angeles at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

BLACKHAWKS 5, CANADIENS 1

First Period
No Scoring.
Penalty — Stalberg Chi (hooking) 16:56.
Second Period
1. Montreal, Kostitsyn 10 (Plekanec, Diaz) 5:35 (pp)
2. Chicago, Brunette 8 (Kane, Seabrook) 11:36
3. Chicago, Sharp 18 (Hossa) 11:57
Penalties — Plekanec Mtl (delay of game) 1:49, Frolik Chi (goaltender interference) 4:42, Blunden Mtl (holding) 8:15, Kane Chi (high-sticking) 18:39.
Third Period
4. Chicago, Stalberg 7 (Bickell) 10:29
5. Chicago, J.Toews 20 (Seabrook) 18:43 (en)
6. Chicago, Bickell 4 (Stalberg, Pirri) 19:48
Penalties — None.
Shots

Montreal	7	11	3	21
Chicago	7	12	9	28

Goal — Montreal: Budaj (L,1-4-0); Chicago: Crawford (W,13-7-2).
Power plays (goals-chances) — Montreal: 1-3; Chicago: 0-2.
Referees — Steve Kozari, Kyle Rehman. **Linesmen** — Darren Gibbs, Andy McElman.
Attendance — 22,081 (19,717) at Chicago.

FLYERS 4, STARS 1

First Period
1. Dallas, Ryder 12 (Eriksson, Ja.Benn) 0:56
2. Philadelphia, Giroux 17 (Jagr, Hartnell) 8:30
3. Philadelphia, Simmonds 10 (Timonen, Giroux) 11:36 (pp)
Penalties — Fiddler Dal (unsportsmanlike conduct) 10:51, Ryder Dal (tripping) 13:51, Rinaldo Pha (interference) 18:40.
Second Period
4. Philadelphia, Jagr 11 (Giroux, Timonen) 8:00 (pp)
Penalties — Hartnell Pha (interference) 5:37, Souray Dal (slashing) 7:39, Bourdon Pha, Morrow Dal (unsportsmanlike conduct) 12:21, Sestito Pha, Burish Dal (misconduct) 14:47, Dowell Dal (interference) 15:41, Morrow Dal (misconduct), Fistric Dal (elbowing) 18:14.
Third Period
5. Philadelphia, Meszaros 4 (Giroux, Hartnell) 5:22
Penalty — Bourdon Pha (unsportsmanlike conduct) 12:09.
Shots

Philadelphia	15	6	9	30
Dallas	10	9	12	31

Goal — Philadelphia: Bobrovsky (W,7-2-1); Dallas: Bachman (L,4-2-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Philadelphia: 2-5; Dallas: 0-3.
Referees — Eric Furlatt, Marcus Vinnerborg.
Linesmen — Jonny Murray, Ryan Galloway.
Attendance — 15,061 (18,532) at Dallas.

COYOTES 4, HURRICANES 3

First Period
1. Phoenix, Whitney 12 (Ekman-Larsson, Hanzal) 2:18 (pp)
2. Carolina, Ruutu 11 (Ponikarovsky, Jokinen) 9:21
Penalties — Harrison Car (interference) 1:27, Morris Pho (interference) 7:17, Gordon Pho (hooking) 17:32.
Second Period
3. Carolina, Nodl 1 (Spacek) 5:49
4. Carolina, Tlusty 7 (Faulk, Harrison) 12:15
5. Phoenix, O'Reilly 2 (Rundblad, Chipchura) 13:24
Penalty — Morris Pho (tripping) 7:52.
Third Period
6. Phoenix, Klesla 1 (Korpikoski, Langkow) 4:20
7. Phoenix, Korpikoski 9 (Morris, Whitney) 10:48
Penalties — Hanzal Pho (slashing), Jokinen Car (cross-checking) 10:29.
Shots

Phoenix	8	6	5	19
Carolina	14	12	11	37

Goal — Phoenix: LaBarbera (W,3-3-0); Carolina: Ward (L,10-14-5). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Phoenix: 1-2; Carolina: 0-3.
Referees — Wes McCauley, Ghislain Hebert.
Linesmen — Bryan Pancich, Scott Driscoll.
Attendance — 15,848 (18,680) at Raleigh, N.C..

AVALANCHE 3, BLUES 2

First Period
1. Colorado, Stastny 11 (Hunwick, S.Elliott) 3:52
2. Colorado, McLeod 2 (K.Porter, Hejda) 5:13
Penalties — Winnik Col (hooking) 10:01, O'Byrne Col (slashing) 11:46, Duchene Col (throwing stick) 15:45.
Second Period
3. St. Louis, Backes 11 (Colaiacovo) 3:01
4. St. Louis, Stewart 5 (Berglund, Perron) 9:10
5. Colorado, McClement 6 (Malone, O'Brien) 14:07
Penalties — Shattenkirk StL (hooking) 11:35, Berglund StL (tripping) 19:46.
Third Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Landeskog Col (tripping) 2:03, Berglund StL (high-sticking) 16:29, Jackman StL, S.Elliott Col (roughing) 16:53.
Shots

St. Louis	14	14	11	39
Colorado	10	11	1	22

Goal — St. Louis: B.Elliott (L,13-3-0); Colorado: Giguere (W,7-4-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — St. Louis: 0-4; Colorado: 0-3.
Referees — Francois St. Laurent, Kelly Sutherland. **Linesmen** — Matt MacPherson, Pierre Racicot.
Attendance — 15,421 (18,007) at Denver.

HOCKEY

2012 WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

All Times Eastern

EXHBITION SCHEDULE

Last night's results
At Calgary
Finland 3 Slovakia 0
At Camrose, Alta.
U.S. vs. Switzerland
Tuesday's results
At Red Deer, Alta.
Russia 6 U.S. 3
At Okotoks, Alta.
Czech Republic 7 Latvia 1
At Olds, Alta.
Sweden 8 Denmark 0
Tonight's games
At Red Deer, Alta.
Canada vs. Switzerland, 9 p.m.
At Brooks, Alta.
Latvia vs. Denmark, 9 p.m.
At Lethbridge, Alta.
Russia vs. Czech Republic, 9 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Sweden, 9:30 p.m.
At Three Hills, Alta.
U.S. vs. Slovakia, 9 p.m.

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Monday, Dec. 26
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Finland, 3:30 p.m.
U.S. vs. Denmark, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Sweden vs. Latvia, 5:30 p.m.
Russia vs. Switzerland, 10 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 27
At Edmonton
Denmark vs. Czech Republic, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Latvia vs. Slovakia, 10 p.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 28
At Edmonton
Finland vs. U.S., 3:30 p.m.
Czech Republic vs. **Canada**, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Switzerland vs. Sweden, 5:30 p.m.
Slovakia vs. Russia, 10 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 29
At Edmonton
Canada vs. Denmark, 8 p.m.
At Calgary
Russia vs. Latvia, 10 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAA BOWL GLANCE

All Times Eastern
(subject to change)
Last night's result
POINSETTIA BOWL
At San Diego
Texas Christian 31 Louisiana Tech 24
Tuesday's result
BEEF 'O'BRADY'S BOWL
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Marshall 20 FIU 10
Tonight's game
MAACO BOWL
At Las Vegas
Boise State (11-1) vs. Arizona State (6-6), 8 p.m.
Saturday's game
HAWAII BOWL
At Honolulu
Nevada (7-5) vs. Southern Mississippi (11-2), 8 p.m.

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man City	17	14	2	1	53	15	44
Man United	17	13	3	1	42	14	42
Tottenham	15	11	1	3	31	18	34
Chelsea	16	10	2	4	34	19	32
Arsenal	17	10	2	5	33	25	32
Liverpool	17	8	6	3	20	13	30
Newcastle	17	7	6	4	23	22	27
Stoke	17	7	3	7	18	28	24
Norwich	17	5	6	6	27	31	21
West Brom	17	6	3	8	19	26	21
Everton	16	6	2	8	17	19	20
Aston Villa	17	4	7	6	19	23	19
Fulham	17	4	6	7	18	23	18
Swansea	17	4	6	7	16	21	18
Sunderland	17	4	5	8	21	21	17
QPR	17	4	4	9	17	31	16
Wolverhampton	17	4	3	10	19	32	15
Wigan	17	3	5	9	15	30	14
Bolton	17	4	0	13	22	39	12
Blackburn	17	2	4	11	24	38	10

Yesterday's results
Aston Villa 1 Arsenal 2
Everton 1 Swansea 0
Fulham 0 Manchester United 5
Manchester City 3 Stoke 0
Newcastle 2 West Bromwich Albion 3
Queens Park Rangers 2 Sunderland 3
Wigan 0 Liverpool 0

ITALY

SERIE A

Yesterday's results
Udinese 0 Juventus 0
Atalanta 4 Cesena 1
Bologna 0 Roma 2
Inter Milan 4 Lecce 1
Lazio 0 Chievo Verona 0
Napoli 6 Genoa 1
Novara 2 Palermo 2
Parma 3 Catania 3

NBA

PRE-SEASON

Last night's results
Orlando 104 Miami 100
Boston 81 Toronto 73
New York 88 New Jersey 82
New Orleans 95 Memphis 80
Minnesota 85 Milwaukee 84
San Antonio 97 Houston 95
Portland at Utah
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's results
Philadelphia 101 Washington 94
Detroit 90 Cleveland 89
Chicago 93 Indiana 85
Oklahoma City 87 Dallas 83
Denver 127 Phoenix 110
Sacramento 95 Golden State 91
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

REGULAR SEASON

Sunday's games
Boston at New York, Noon
Miami at Dallas, 2:30 p.m.
Chicago at L.A. Lakers, 5 p.m.
Orlando at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

NFL

WEEK 16

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-New England	11	3	0	.786	437	297
N.Y. Jets	8	6	0	.571	346	315
Miami	5	9	0	.357	286	269
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	311	371

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Houston	10	4	0	.714	343	236
Tennessee	7	7	0	.500	279	278
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	207	293
Indianapolis	1	13	0	.071	211	395

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	334	236
x-Pittsburgh	10	4	0	.714	285	218
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	305	283
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	195	274

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	6	0	.571	292	343
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	317	382
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	358	313
Kansas City	6	8	0	.429	192	319

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	348	296
N.Y. Giants	7	7	0	.500	334	372
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	342	311
Washington	5	9	0	.357	252	300

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	11	3	0	.786	457	306
Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	341	281
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	341	368
Tampa Bay	4	10	0	.286	247	401

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	1	0	.929	480	297
Detroit	9	5	0	.643	395	332
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	293
Minnesota	2	12	0	.143	294	406

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	11	3	0	.786	327	185
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	284	273
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	273	305
St. Louis	2	12	0	.143	166	346

x-clinched playoff spot; **y**-clinched division
Tonight's game
All Times Eastern
Houston at Indianapolis, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday's games
Oakland at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Denver at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Washington, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Arizona at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
San Diego at Detroit, 4:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:15 p.m.
Sunday's game
Chicago at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.
Monday's game
Atlanta at New Orleans, 8:30 p.m.

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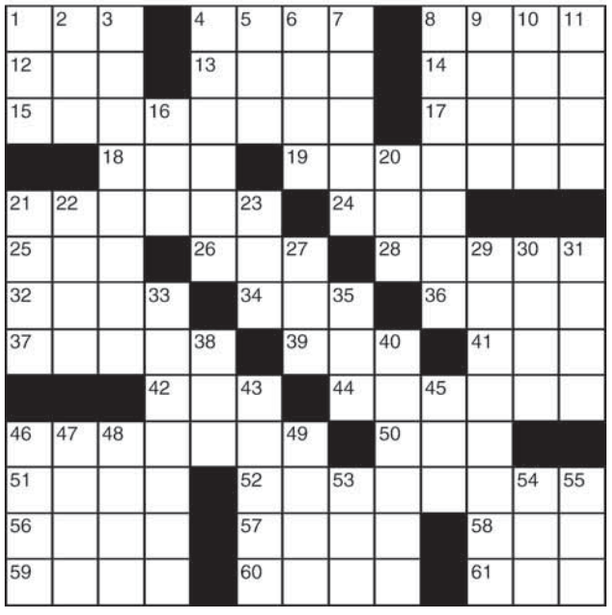
Crossword



Across

1 "Humbug!"
4 Actress Jessica
8 "Pow!"
12 Census statistic
13 Sense
14 Mosque VIP
15 Ball-carrier's target
17 Donate
18 Twosome
19 Beaten down
21 Coarse
24 Definite article
25 Blackbird
26 Gratuity
28 Ballroom dance
32 Baseball team
34 Popular pet
36 Praise highly
37 Trusty horse
39 Young 34-Across
41 Bar supply
42 Caustic solution
44 Recipient's reply
46 Modulate the voice
50 PussyCat's partner
51 Sandwich shop
52 Indispensable aid
56 Plumbing problem
57 Bedouin
58 Neither mate
59 Shaving gel brand
60 Head (Fr.)
61 Ram's fan?

Down

1 Suitcase
2 Earlier
3 Banner
4 Showing buoyancy
5 Mainlander's memento
6 Crooked
7 Watchful
8 "Who cares?"
9 In the thick of
10 Church section
11 Feds
16 Schlep
20 Resistance measure
21 Moving fleet
22 Condominium, e.g.
23 Disencumber
27 Burst
29 Suburban Philadelphia area
30 Dollar
31 Rhyming tributes
33 Thin and slippery
35 Eviscerate
38 Coloring agent
40 "Friends" role
43 Brilliance
45 Puncturing tool
46 Between jobs
47 Require
48 Old Glory
49 Grow weary
53 Adipose tissue
54 Promptly
55 Before

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	A	D		F	A	N	S		H	A	M	S
A	V	A		A	B	I	T		O	G	R	E
N	E	T		C	A	L	A	B	O	O	S	E
G	R	A	N	T			G	O	T			
			A	I	D	A		P	E	R	S	E
B	U	R	N	O	O	S	E		R	E	E	D
I	R	E		N	O	T	R	E		D	A	G
A	G	A	R		M	O	N	G	O	O	S	E
S	E	P	I	A		R	E	G	S			
			O	W	N		H	O	W	D	Y	
F	O	O	T	L	O	O	S	E		R	O	E
C	O	V	E		A	R	I	A		A	L	L
C	H	A	R		H	E	R	D		P	E	P

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	3		6		7		9	
		9				6		
	4		5		9		8	
	1	8				7	2	
7								9
	5	2				4	6	
	9		4		1		7	
		1				2		
	7		2		8		3	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	1	9	2	4	6	8	7	5
5	7	6	8	1	3	2	4	9
2	4	8	7	5	9	1	6	3
9	2	1	4	7	8	3	5	6
7	6	5	3	2	1	4	9	8
4	8	3	9	6	5	7	2	1
1	9	2	5	3	4	6	8	7
6	5	4	1	8	7	9	3	2
8	3	7	6	9	2	5	1	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Matthew Hart, You have been my best love since the day I met you and it will be until we part. I love you always, **ROSE YOUR WIFE**

Danai, Hello My Love, I miss you SO much when you're out of the country! I'm missing my other half! What can I do without you?! Who can i gossip with? MISS U AND LOVE YOU! **YOUR LOVE**

CP "Fred" Here goes nothing. Feel like I missed out last nite for sure! Just wanted to reach out and kiss you so tempted after seeing you 2 days in a row, shaved face was so Much better.lol We have a past,(18yrs) and way different future. If ever another chance for us please let us try.. My candle is lit at both ends not sure if yours is too. Hope to hear from you, today would be nice! Hope you see this. xo **"FRED"**

A look at the weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Min -9°	Min -4°	Min -4°
Max 3°	Max 4°	Max 2°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 5:30AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Over the next four weeks, you will get numerous opportunities to better yourself. You must take them.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 As the Sun changes signs, your awareness will deepen and many "problems" will cease to exist.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Tread carefully when dealing with other people's money: The potential for trouble is huge.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You are now halfway through your solar year. It's the ideal time to take stock of how far you have come.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You need to do more in some areas but less in others. Make sure you get plenty of rest over the next few days.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 As the Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today, your confidence will soar and you will start to believe that anything is possible.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you feel drawn to a certain person, it is because your fates are connected.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The Sun is moving into the most social area of your chart and you'll be more open than usual. Embrace it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about improving your cash flow situation. Follow your dream. Make it pay.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 The Sun enters your birth sign today and a new solar year begins. Think big, act big and expect big.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Stick up for yourself today but don't say too much. Sometimes you are too sensitive to criticism.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. The problem you are confronted with has a simple solution. Stop making things difficult. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

DANNY GOHLKE/ DAPD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUSADEQ SADEQ/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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